

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 COME-00 DLOS-09 CG-00
DOTE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
EB-08 CA-01 H-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /080 W
-----075188 220522Z /20

O R 220240Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3292
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0755

TOKYO FOR RFO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS
SUBJECT: VOYAGEUR ENTERS PNG WATERS

REF: WELLINGTON 01525

1. E/C OFF RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM PETER WILSON, DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, GPNG, ON FRIDAY. WILSON CALLED TO DISCUSS PROPOSED REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY BUT ALSO MENTIONED THAT US TUNA BOAT, VOYAGEUR, HAD ENTERED PNG WATERS. THE VOYAGEUR APPARENTLY REQUESTED A LICENSE FROM GPNG MAY 17 BUT GPNG WAS NOT ADMINISTRATIVELY OR LEGALLY READY TO ISSUE SUCH A LICENSE. WILSON WAS ABSENT AT THE TIME, AND THE MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY, JULIUS CHAN, DELAYED ACTION. ACCORDING TO WILSON, THE VOYAGEUR WENT TO SEA AGAIN MAY 19 WITH ITS CAPTAIN IN A "HUFF". TED MORGADO OF THE LOCALLY REGISTERED U.S. COMPANY, STARKIST, REPORTS THE VOYAGEUR CAPTAIN TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS HEADING FOR MICRONESIA BUT NEITHER MORGADO NOR WILSON BELIEVE THAT REPORT.

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2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT STARKIST IS CONTINUING ATTEMPTS TO REGISTER THE VOYAGEUR AS PART OF ITS OWN FLEET BUT AT THE MOMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO REACH THE VOYAGEUR BY RADIO. WILSON WHO WANTS TO AVOID ANY INCIDENT SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CHARTER THE VOYAGEUR FOR ONE DOLLAR IF NECESSARY.

3. WILSON CLEARLY DOES NOT WANT US TUNA BOAT PICKED UP AT THIS TIME. HE IS ENDEAVORING TO EXPLAIN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION TO CHAN. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT PNG PATROL BOAT CAPTAIN MAY ARREST THE VOYAGEUR. THE EMB WILL NEED GUIDANCE AS TO THE ACTION TAKEN IF THE VOYAGEUR IS ARRESTED. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO DISCUSS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MATTER WITH JULIUS CHAN AND TO OFFER ANY POSSIBLE HELP IN AVOIDING AN INCIDENT. ANY ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS THE DEPT MIGHT SUGGEST WOULD BE USEFUL. MOST HELPFUL TO US WOULD BE TWO SCENARIOS, FIRST OUTLINING LIKELY STEPS IN ABSENCE OF SPRFA IF VOYAGEUR IS CAUGHT FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE AND SECOND, IF SPRFA COMES INTO BEING AND US IS MEMBER.

4. THIS INCIDENT HAS CLEARLY WORRIED WILSON AND MAY BE THE CATALYST NEEDED TO GET GPNG THINKING ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE US ON THE TUNA ISSUE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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